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Disclosure of the Invention

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According to one aspect the invention resides in a retrieval aid intended for use with a flexible line having an object located at the end of the line, the retrieval aid comprising a shaft having a line engagement member mounted at one end, said engagement member being readily engagable with the line whereby when engaged with the line the engagement member surrounds the line and is capable of movement along the line wherein the engagement member is formed as a substantially circular coil comprising more than one turn but less than two turns, each turn being of the same diameter and wherein the coil extends beyond from the end of the shaft, wherein the central axis of the coil is inclined at an acute angle to the central axis of the shaft and whereby the coils is offset to one side of the central axis of the shaft.

According to another aspect the invention resides in a retrieval aid intended for use with a flexible line having an object located at the end of the line, the retrieval aid comprising a shaft having a line engagement member mounted at one end, said engagement member being readily engagable with the line whereby when engaged with the line the engagement member surrounds the line and is capable of movement along the line wherein the engagement member is formed as a substantially circular coil comprising more than one turn but less than two turns each turn being of the same diameter with the turns overlying each other with one end being fixed to the shaft and the other end being the free end and the coil extends outwardly from the end of the shaft, the portion of the coil proximate the free end extending outwardly from the perimeter of the underlying turn and wherein the central axis of the coil is inclined at an acute angle to the central axis of the shaft.

According to a preferred feature of the invention the adjacent portions of the turns of the coil are spaced from each other.

According to a preferred feature of the invention the coil comprises a approximately 1½ turns.

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more than one turn wherein the central axis of the coils is substantially parallel to the shaft. According to a preferred feature of the invention the stand-off coil is removably supported from the shaft. According to a preferred feature of the invention the stand-off coils is adapted to be clampingly received between the 5 ends of a pair of interconnected lengths.

According to a preferred feature of the invention the acute angle between the central axis of the shaft and the central axis of the coil is between 10 and 60 degrees.

According to a preferred feature of the invention the coil has a length greater than 10 one revolution and the free end of the coil extends outwardly from the outer perimeter of the coil. According to one embodiment the central axis of the free end subtends an angle of less than 90° to the central axis of the shaft.

The invention will be more fully understood in the light of the following description of several specific embodiments.

15 Brief Description of the Drawings

The description is made with reference to the accompanying drawings of which:

Figure 1 is a schematic illustration of a retrieval aid according to the first embodiment;

Figure 2 is a side elevation of the line engagement member according to the first 20 embodiment;

Figure 3 is an opposite side elevation to that of Figure 2;

Figures 4a and 4b are sectional elevations of couplings according to the first embodiment;

Figure 5 is a plan view of the line engagement member according to the first 25 embodiment.